

## Sheva Mitzvot Bnei Noach (The 7 mitzvot for Gentiles)

Ref: *Sefer Shoftim, Hilchot Melachim Umilchamotehem, Chapters 9 –10*

6 commanded to Adam

- Not to worship false gods
- Not to curse G-d
- Not to murder
- Not to practice incest and adultery
- Not to steal
- A court system to uphold justice

1 commanded to Noah

- Not to eat the flesh from a living animal

*Avraham* added

- Circumcision
- Morning prayer

*Yitzchak* added

- Separation of tithes
- Afternoon prayers

*Yaakov* added

- Prohibition of eating sciatic nerve
- Evening prayers

*Amram* in Egypt was given additional *mitzvot*.

*Mosheh* was given rest of Torah.

All these prohibitions of *sheva mitzvot Bnei Noach*, carry the death sentence. (Decapitation).

An exception is engaging in sexual relations with a married Jewess. Here execution is by Stoning.

This can be judged with one witness and a single judge.

No warning is required.

Relatives may serve as witnesses, but a woman may not.

The Laws relating to the *sheva mitzvot bnei Noach* vary in their severity for the equivalent Laws relating to Jews.

- Inadvertent violation of *mitzvot bnei Noach* are exempt from punishment, aside for murder.
- Children, deaf-mute and imbecile are also exempt.
- A convert cannot revert to the state of *ger toshav* (Punishment would be execution).



*Mipi Kabalah* Gentile forbidden to cross breed animals and graft different species of trees together.

- Only Jews must have a *brit* (Nowadays because children of *Yishmael* and those of *Keturah* have become mixed, they must also be circumcised). Not executed for failing to do *brit*.

- Gentile cannot try and create own religion by creating new *mitzvot* and keeping holidays. If they learn Torah or keep Shabbat, they are guilty of death (by hand of Heaven). However they may do *mitzvot* for their own reward. (i.e. not as a duty).
- Which Courts are used to judge *ger toshav* etc.



From a Jew's point of view *Derabanan*, we should visit Gentile's ill, bury their dead and support their poor – for the sake of peace.

A *ger toshav* (Resident Alien) is a Gentile who accepts not to worship false gods and, more specifically, to take on observance of the Noachide Laws.

He does not circumcise or immerse and is considered as a pious Gentile (*mechasidei Umot Haolam*)

#### **Reminder**

*Ger* (Proselyte) and *Ger Toshav* (Resident Alien) Ref: *Sefer Kedushah, Hilchot Issurei Biah*, Chapter 13, 14

